



Contact: Nancy Benecki, Public Information Officer
(201) 460-4662 nancy.benecki@njmeadowlands.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

August 1, 2006

NJMC Creates Hackensack River Guide

LYNDHURST, N.J. – The New Jersey Meadowlands Commission today announced the completion of the Hackensack River Guide, a map and brochure highlighting historical trivia, wildlife and points of interest along the Hackensack River.

“By offering this guide, we’re taking a step toward memorializing the stories of the Meadowlands and letting eco-tourists and those interested in gritty urban cultural tourism know where they can find some of our region’s quirky and sometimes sublime secrets, focusing on the river and our waterways,” said NJMC Chair Susan Bass Levin, also Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs. “An urban oasis of marsh habitats, parks and open space - dotted and crisscrossed by the landmarks of man’s hand - awaits the visitor to this 32-square mile region. Whether onboard an NJMC pontoon boat cruise, guided canoe tour or walking along a trail, we hope residents and visitors will take advantage of this effort to refocus attention on the river as a key element of our communities.”

The Hackensack River Guide provides pictures and an overview of some of the 260 bird species, terrapin turtles, fiddler crabs, muskrats and other wildlife found in the Meadowlands. It features the landmarks and the legends of the lower Hackensack River, among them Laurel Hill County Park in Secaucus, once a site of hospitals and asylums, Paterson Plank Road in Carlstadt, once the longest wood-surface road in New Jersey, and the Mill Creek Marsh in Secaucus, a 206-acre habitat revived by the NJMC.

The guide will be given out on NJMC pontoon boat cruises and guided canoe tours as a souvenir. Copies will be available at the NJMC and Meadowlands Environment Center in DeKorte Park, Lyndhurst, and a copy will be sent to each of the 14 municipalities that make up the Meadowlands District. Lastly, copies will be sent to local schools and historical societies to keep as a record.

“The Meadowlands has a long tradition of natural and human change, from the glacier that formed it, to the early days of dumping that crippled it, to more recent progress of the NJMC Master Plan that has seen 8,400 acres of open space preservation and ongoing efforts to restore the region to a thriving natural environment,” said NJMC Executive Director Robert Ceberio. “Now more than ever, we welcome people to come see for themselves.”

#####